

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 191

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to commend and honor Representative Sabi "Doc" Kumar for fifty years of devoted service in the field of medicine.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those medical professionals who have wholly devoted themselves to serving others and thereby contributed significantly to the well-being of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is our esteemed colleague Representative Sabi "Doc" Kumar, who will this year celebrate half a century of remarkable service as a physician, an important milestone in a laudable career; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kumar is a general, vascular, and endoscopic surgeon; he has practiced in Springfield since 1977, seeing approximately fifty patients per week; he knows his patients personally and believes that the privilege of caring for them is a blessing from God; and

WHEREAS, when Dr. Sabi Kumar came to the United States on December 6, 1970, he arrived at JFK airport in New York with only thirty-seven dollars in his pocket; thanks to the beneficence of his cousin, a doctor already living in the states, he was able to make his way to Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami, Florida, where an internship awaited him; and

WHEREAS, Representative Sabi Kumar completed his surgical residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center between 1971–1976, thereafter entering a fellowship in transplantation at the University of Miami School of Medicine, which he completed in 1977; and

WHEREAS, in July 1977, he began his surgical practice in Springfield, Tennessee, where he has remained for the past forty-three years; he was recruited to Springfield by Sam Ramsey, a hospital administrator who would later become Representative Kumar's campaign treasurer; and

WHEREAS, it was in Springfield that Dr. Kumar met the love of his life, Linda, a Robertson County resident and critical care nurse; the two have been married nearly forty years and have been blessed with one daughter, Nina, who is a successful healthcare attorney; and

WHEREAS, during his forty-three years of practice in Springfield and Robertson County, Dr. Sabi Kumar has performed more than 12,000 operations; he is a respected and trusted leader in his community who has healed and touched the lives of so many; and

WHEREAS, ever a problem solver, Dr. Kumar holds four U.S. patents for surgical devices: Surgical Skin Staple, Kumar Clamp and Catheter (method and device for cholangiography), Kumar T-Anchors (method and device for mesh fixation), and a Single-Pass Skin Suturing Device; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kumar is the founder and president of Nashville Surgical Instruments in Springfield, which sells and distributes his surgical devices throughout all fifty states and abroad; he has also served as a fellow of the Southeastern Surgical Congress and president of the Nashville Surgical Association; and

WHEREAS, additionally, he is a past chief of staff and past chief of staff of surgery of NorthCrest Medical Center in Springfield, as well as a past member of the medical center's Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sabi Kumar has also served his community as a member of the Tennessee Medical Association and Springfield Rotary Club, and he currently serves as an assistant clinical professor of surgery at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and a member of the Middle Tennessee YMCA Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kumar has the distinction of being the first immigrant elected to the Tennessee legislature; he has faithfully served the people of Robertson County and House District 66 as a member of the 109th through 112th General Assemblies and currently

serves as chair of the Insurance Committee and as a member of the Calendar and Rules Committee, Health Committee, Health Subcommittee, and Insurance Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, Representative Sabi Kumar and his family are longtime members of First United Methodist Church in Springfield, where he teaches Sunday School on the second Sunday of each month; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kumar is the embodiment of the American Dream; he has achieved greatness through hard work, determination, education, and seizing the opportunities extended to him; and

WHEREAS, he attributes his success to the encouragement of his parents, particularly his mother, who ignited his ambition to be a physician like his father; the kindness of his host family in Florida, Morton and Shirley Schultz, who made sure he felt at home upon his arrival and looked after him even after he had moved into his own apartment; the people of Robertson County, who have supported him as a physician and political leader; his dear wife and family, who have always been by his side; and his fellow members of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in everything he does, Representative Sabi Kumar exhibits a strong work ethic and a Christ-centered devotion to the people he serves; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kumar is a professional and public-spirited individual of the highest order, and he has made significant, indelible contributions to the field of medicine during the last fifty years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and congratulate Representative Sabi "Doc" Kumar for fifty years of astute service in the field of medicine, wishing him much continued success as he continues to serve at the height of his profession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.